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The illustrations form a very valuable and instructive addition to the text. They are excellent reproductions of contemporary woodcuts, engravings and paintings. Seven portraits of Mirabeau, a facsimile of one of his letters, the château d' If, the citadel of the Île de Ré, the donjon de Vincennes, several views of the hall of the Estates at Versailles and of historical buildings of old Paris, together with portraits of most of the famous contemporaries of Mirabeau, make up this attractive list. The paper, printing, and binding of the book represent the best results of German handiwork.

FRED MORROW FLING.

Le Conventionnel Philippeaux. Par PAUL MAUTOUCHET. (Paris : Société nouvelle de librairie et d'édition. 1900. Pp. xlii, 408.)

THIS work was presented as a thesis for the doctor's degree at the Sorbonne and was "brilliantly" defended March sixth of this year. Referring to the book in the *Révolution française* (April 14, 1901), M. Aulard states that M. Mautouchet did his first work upon the subject in one of the practice courses at the University and later recast it and developed it more fully as a thesis.

As M. Aulard remarked, "It is a good book." It could not be a great book, chiefly from lack of material. All that is known of Philippeaux previous to 1789 barely fills a page; he did not become a national character until the autumn of 1792, and he was guillotined in the spring of 1794. An honest, laborious, self-sacrificing, but very ardent patriot, his historical existence was a tragedy in a single act. This tragedy has already been brilliantly described in outline by Michelet; M. Mautouchet presents it in all its details. Had Philippeaux not been sent upon his famous mission to Vendée, he might have been as little known as many of the members of the Convention.

M. Mautouchet properly devotes nearly half of his volume to these last few months of the life of Philippeaux. He describes the success of the mission in uniting the people and in raising volunteers; the obstacles thrown in Philippeaux's way by the demagogue generals at Tours and the criminal abuses and mismanagement that he noted in their army; the saving of Angers, the unification of Nantes and the failure of the plan of campaign, advocated by Philippeaux, because the army of Tours did not support him; the denunciation of the generals and the criticism of the Committee of Public Safety, leading finally to the arrest, trial and execution of Philippeaux. His frankness cost him his life. In his last moments, knowing what the outcome would be, he declared that no torture could force him to betray the sacred interests that the people had intrusted to him. The memory of such a man deserves to be vindicated, and M. Mautouchet has vindicated it, although he was not able to prove to the satisfaction of M. Aulard that the famous order to retreat, that Philippeaux charged Rossignol with writing, was even written.

In form, the book is beyond criticism; the bibliography, with its

long list of manuscript and printed sources and historical narratives, is apparently as complete as industry and skill could make it; the foot-notes are abundant and contain valuable matter; the *Appendice* is devoted to documents hitherto unpublished. The introduction is, perhaps, too scientific. The writer of an historical work should be thoroughly familiar with the historical method and should never lose sight of it either in his investigations or in the presentation of the results, but it is somewhat naïve, to say the least, to discuss in an introduction the general principles of method that are found in every good text-book.

FRED MORROW FLING.

L'Île de France sous Decaen, 1803-1810. Par HENRI PRENTOUT.
(Paris: Hachette. 1901. Pp. xlvii, 688.)

IN history there is a recognized tendency for a lost to remain an unchronicled cause. Men care not to rehearse their own defeats. This weakness French scholarship, in such works as the present and Lorin's *Frontenac*, has overcome. Dr. Prentout's treatise has, beside this melancholy interest for his countrymen, a touch of literary chivalry. Its central figure, Decaen, on his return from the east in 1811 found himself partially dislodged from the current of larger affairs and died, in 1832, in comparative obscurity. The author, a frank admirer, seeks, by reviving the memory of Decaen's services, to promote juster appreciation of his merits. The treatise rests on the papers of Decaen himself, preserved since 1872 in the library of Caen; which source, by its freshness, heightens the worth of the work as a whole without compromising the author's brief for its hero. For these papers are, during the years in question, mostly in the trustworthy form of letters; and all conclusions which the author has based upon them, he has checked and completed in the archives of Paris, London and Mauritius.

By the peace of Amiens, France, to use Forfait's expression, "held just enough of India to be able to say that she was not excluded." This remnant of French dominion, which Bonaparte hoped to revive, he entrusted at that critical time to Decaen. Decaen was born, the son of a bailiff, at Caen in 1769, enlisted in 1792, attained the rank of brigadier in 1796, and in 1800 had closed this satisfactory career in the German campaigns by commanding with credit a division at Hohenlinden. His appointment as captain-general in India, though self-sought, was considered by Moreau, whose trusted lieutenant he was, as nothing less than banishment. Such it may have been in the eyes of Bonaparte, who crippled his rival at the time by appointing several of Moreau's lieutenants to posts in remote colonies. Decaen himself he was careful to weaken by withholding from his control both the Isle of France and the French squadron in those seas. In the second of these points, Dr. Prentout sees the sinister influence of the minister of marine, who was on ill terms with Decaen; but, in respect of both, one may observe that Bonaparte, then at war with Toussaint Louverture in